

Jobs—or Their Own Farms For Soldiers and Sailors Planned for After the War

Sergeant Major Greenhut's Proposal, Recommended by Military Authorities, Would Replenish Any Labor Shortage and Make Agricultural Development a Military Undertaking.

By Sophie Irene Loeb

A PLAN whereby soldiers and sailors will be turned into proper channels of industry after the war is now before the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and has been reviewed by some of the most prominent railroad men and financiers of the country.

The plan is based on three contingencies. Should there be a shortage of labor, should there be a surplus of labor, and should there be neither a shortage nor surplus of labor.

One of the principal features of the new plan is a farm army or a "back to the land" proposition after the war.

The scheme is one outlined by Sergt. Major Eugene Greenhut, now stationed at Camp Upton, and is being strongly recommended and approved by military authorities.

Sergt. Major Greenhut explained the plan to The Evening World as follows:

"The gigantic problem of turning millions of fighters back to peaceful pursuits without disturbing the labor market, without creating a tremendous industrial upheaval and without causing a disastrous downward revision of labor wages is to-day receiving the attention of the foremost thinkers of modern times.

"These far-sighted men and women see the necessity for immediate adoption of some plan whereby each honorably-discharged soldier, sailor or marine will be assured a suitable opportunity to earn a livelihood for himself and his dependents.

"Much attention has been given the returned disabled fighter, so that to-day each who still retains a spark of life is assured a chance to support himself. He will receive proper training by the Government and private agencies and an outlet for his energies is guaranteed. But the disabled man will be of a great minority. Those who will really need aid will be the men who have come out of this war without serious injuries.

"England has realized the importance of making some provision for their future and has formed a parliamentary committee and a Ministry of Reconstruction to deal with this problem. Other nations are following suit. Up to the present America has done nothing definite.

"It is proposed that the President appoint a permanent commission which will undertake to obtain profitable employment for all honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines.

"This commission will be composed of a Chairman and one representative identified with each of the following interests: Legislative, labor, banking, agricultural, railroad, steel, mining, manufacturing, textiles, the press, the army, the navy.

"The commission will determine, as far as practicable, from information obtainable from various lines of industry, the number of vacancies there are likely to occur within a year of the declaration of peace. It is assumed that each industrial factor is planning for that year in advance. Therefore this commission will serve also in the capacity of consolidating the plans for the future of industrial America.

"The commission will determine from army, navy and marine records the number of each of all occupational abilities who are now in any branch of the service.

"The commission will act as a medium through which men and employers may be brought together.

"The commission will be in a position to consolidate the efforts of other national agencies interested in branches of this work. The commission will aid and be aided by like commissions of Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium and other nations. The commission will be able to make recommendations for the reconstruction of devastated sections of Europe. It will plan the part America will play in such work, based upon definite knowledge of our surplus labor power.

"Each man in the service will be required, four weeks before he receives his discharge, to make a statement in writing of his financial status and his prospects of obtaining immediate employment. Based upon this statement, a man may be released only when employment is secured for him or such other disposition arranged for as outlined in the following paragraphs:

"All men may thus be absorbed by the community. However, it is possible that there may be a surplus. Should this surplus of unemployed seem likely to be more than 100,000 after our industrial needs and those of other nations have been accounted for, it is suggested that the Commission will recommend that Congress authorize the opening of good farming lands and large tracts for agricultural development, that aid may be given our critical agricultural situation. More than 200,000,000 acres of such lands are available, not a little of which is in the vicinity of cotton-lands which may thus be utilized to advantage after the war.

"Upon re-enlistment for a period of five years in an army or navy, the

restoration, an honorably discharged soldier, sailor or marine will become part owner of the property, assets and liabilities of the element he has joined.

"This army will retain the ranks, grades and pays prevailing under present army regulations. However, officers will be appointed in accordance with their knowledge of agricultural production, distribution and marketing.

"The land will be deeded to each element organized in the following proportions: Brigade, \$210 men, 1,313,600 acres; division, 27,152 men, 4,346,000 acres.

"This will allow 160 acres for each man in the brigade or division, no more than he could get on a homestead grant in the United States or Canada. However, all land will be pooled and owned by the brigade or division to which it has been deeded. It will not be divided into quarter sections and a certain quarter section allotted to a certain man.

"The money to finance development will be advanced under the Federal Farm Loan Act, to the element undertaking the land grant in the same proportion that a like number of individual farmers could obtain loans were they to organize for their own good.

"Products will be marketed through boards composed of commanding officers of the various elements, along the lines of the successful fruit growers and planters' associations in this country.

"Profits will be distributed on percentages computed by the Commission for five years. They will be distributed according to rank, but not in the same proportion that determines salaries. After five years the entire management will be turned over to a board made up of commanding officers of the various elements if both the Commission and the board so agree.

"After five years, members may resign or resign. Those resigning may take a Certificate of Participation for their interest. Resignation before the five-year period will cause the member to lose all claim automatically to all profits and assets of the element to which he belonged.

"The Certificate of Participation will be an interest bearing negotiable long term bond issued against the assets of the element.

"I have submitted this matter in the briefest form possible for so large a problem. Many questions may arise. Yet each factor mentioned herein is based on a thorough knowledge of the situation. For a period of one and one-half years previous to my entrance into the military service I conducted an exhaustive investigation of the industrial labor situation and of agricultural conditions. This investigation included a thorough study of the high cost of living problem. In January, 1917, I offered the President a solution to the problem of the high cost of living through the Secretary of Agriculture."

New York's First Mayor

THE first Mayor of New York, Thomas Willett, was inducted into office on June 13, 1663. Willett, a wealthy merchant and trader, governed New York honestly and well, and after his first term of one year was made Mayor again in 1667.

The municipal government was composed of five Aldermen, three Dutch and two English, and a Sheriff, although police duties devolved largely upon the Mayor, and he was Police Magistrate as well. He had his troubles with excise matters, and his conduct of police affairs was subjected to much criticism, a precedent being established which has been adhered to throughout the administrations of all of Mayor Willett's successors down to the present day.

With the American Army in France
SECOND OF A SERIES OF SKETCHES DRAWN "OVER THERE" BY P. D. BROWN, U. S. A., PICTURING THE INTIMATE, SOMETIMES HUMOROUS, SIDE OF LIFE IN "BILLETTS."

